

## Quercus michauxii / Carpinus caroliniana - Ilex opaca / Leucothoe racemosa Forest

COMMON NAME                      Swamp Chestnut Oak / American Hornbeam - American Holly / Swamp Fetterbush Forest

### SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS            Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS       Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP           Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP       Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION                        Saturated cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.g.)

ALLIANCE                          *Quercus michauxii* - *Quercus pagoda* Saturated Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL   1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM        Palustrine

### RANGE

#### *Globally*

*Quercus michauxii* / *Carpinus caroliniana* - *Ilex opaca* / *Leucothoe racemosa* Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Georgia to Virginia.

#### *Congaree Swamp National Monument*

This community is documented from one plot in zone one and is possible on other slope bases.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

#### *Globally*

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

#### *Congaree Swamp National Monument*

This community occurs on floodplain edges of brownwater floodplains, in situations that are very rarely flooded by alluvial waters, but which receive regular seepage from adjacent upland slopes. The hydrology is constantly saturated, and soils are silty clay with organic matter present.

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

#### *Globally*

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below

#### *Congaree Swamp National Monument*

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Quercus michauxii</i> , <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Short shrub	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Chasmanthium laxum</i> var. <i>sessiliflorum</i>

### DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

#### *Globally*

The global concept currently is the same as the park-specific concept.

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Congaree Swamp National Monument**

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*Congaree Swamp National Monument*

*Quercus michauxii*, *Leucothoe racemosa*, *Magnolia virginiana*, *Smilax walteri*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*

**VEGETATION DESCRIPTION**

*Globally*

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

*Congaree Swamp National Monument*

*Quercus michauxii* / *Carpinus caroliniana* - *Ilex opaca* / *Leucothoe racemosa* Forest has a closed canopy and moderate to sparse subcanopy, shrub, herbaceous, and vine/liana strata. The canopy is dominated by *Quercus michauxii*. *Pinus taeda* and *Liquidambar styraciflua* are typical in the canopy. The subcanopy is dominated by *Carpinus caroliniana*. Other species that may occur in the canopy or subcanopy include *Nyssa biflora*, *Magnolia virginiana*, *Persea palustris*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Acer rubrum*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Quercus nigra*, *Ulmus alata*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Carya alba*, *Cornus foemina*, *Ilex decidua*, *Ilex opaca*, *Quercus phellos*, *Carya cordiformis*, and others. *Leucothoe racemosa* is the dominant and characteristic shrub species; other shrubs present can include *Ilex verticillata*, *Callicarpa americana*, *Viburnum dentatum*, *Rhododendron canescens*, and others. The herbaceous layer is sparse and is weakly dominated by *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*. Other species that are typical include *Carex bromoides*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Pluchea camphorata*, *Carex scoparia*, and *Mitchella repens*.

**OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES**            The exotic *Lonicera japonica* may be present.

**CONSERVATION RANK**            G2G3

**RANK JUSTIFICATION**            The specialized habitat required for this community is scarce.

**DATABASE CODE**            Cegl007737

**COMMENTS**

*Globally*

Few stands of this vegetation type have been studied, and rangewide information is limited.

**REFERENCES**